



Tomah Area Living

Welcome to Tomah!

Well, you're probably not actually here yet or you wouldn't be reading this. You will be soon, though, and we're here to help you get started. This living guide is your lifeline to life in the Tomah area, exploring the surrounding cities, and learning your way around. It's a valuable resource of "All Things Tomah," and your key to getting to know your new home.

Welcome to Tomah! We're glad you're here!



Enjoy the Outdoors—Tomah

Amish Country: Discover the quiet simplicity of 19th-century farming tradition just southwest of Tomah, where horse-drawn buggies and colorful quilts drying on the line are all part of this quaint lifestyle. To tour our Amish countryside you may need a map – feel free to [download a self-guided tour](#).

Bike Trails: The Elroy-Sparta State Bike Trail is 33 miles of wilderness passing through three railroad tunnels. This trail is one of Wisconsin's favorite bike rides. For more information on the trail visit [here!](#)

Cranberry Country: Want to see marshes up close and personal? Take a short drive north of Tomah, to Warrens, Wisconsin, for any and all things cranberries. Go on a self-guided cranberry tour as well as try any cranberry goods you can think of! To download our tours [click here!](#)

Necedah National Wildlife Refuge: Providing important services to wildlife, people, and the habitats which support them. A refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife, Necedah Wildlife Refuge is responsible for preserving a natural diversity and abundance of fauna and

flora. Enjoy and learn about our natural world through hiking, hunting, fishing, and attending educational and interpretive programs. For more information, [visit their website](#).

Skatepark: Down in Tomah's Fireman's Park, right off of E. Monowau Street you will find Tomah's very own Backyard Skatepark! This park is full of ramps, rails, and boxes. Fun and safe for all ages and abilities! If you would like more information on Tomah's Skatepark, [visit them on Facebook!](#)

Tomah Recreation Trail: The Tomah Recreation Trail has several points where you may begin your walking, biking, roller blading, or cross-country skiing outdoor adventure. If you would like to venture the entire distance of the trail, use this suggested 2-mile long route. To view the trail, along with instructions on how to take in the whole thing, [click here!](#)

Whitetail Ridge Recreation Area: Located near scenic Fort McCoy and open to the public for downhill skiing/snowboarding, snow tubing, and cross country skiing. The Chalet is open when a break to warm up is needed.



Enjoy the Outdoors—La Crosse

Biking: La Crosse County's picturesque bluffs, river lands, and country highways make for some of the best road/mountain biking in the world. Over 100 miles of maintained bike paths and trails cover the region. Find more about the trails [here](#).

Grandad Bluff: Has become not only a destination point for thousands but also a symbol of the beautiful Coulee Region. The 600-ft high bluff overlooks the city of La Crosse. The view of the Mississippi River Valley includes three states: Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. Known as one of the most scenic view in the state.

Great River Road: Up for a road trip? Enjoy beautiful scenery, access to excellent hiking, fishing, scenic overlooks, and of course the mighty Mississippi along the [Wisconsin Great River Road](#).

Hixton Forest: Nearly ten miles of hiking and multi-use trails crisscross the wooded bluffs on the eastern edge of La Crosse with connecting trails from [Myrick Park](#), or even downtown La Crosse via Riverside Park. The Hixon Forest Trails offer access to Grandad Bluff Park as well as four other designated vistas. Hikers and mountain bikers welcome!

Hunting: The La Crosse area's abundant waterways, wooded bluffs, meadows, and endless marshes make it a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts of every stripe, and that includes sportsmen. The hunting in our region is as good as it gets in the Midwest, with great opportunities for hunting and trapping waterfowl, small game, and, of course, white-tailed deer.

Mt. La Crosse Ski Area: Since 1959, skiers of all ages and abilities have fallen in love with Mt. La Crosse! From gentle Mileaway, Wisconsin's longest run, to Damnation, Mid-America's steepest trail, Mt. La Crosse offers the widest variety of skiing and snowboarding terrain in the Midwest. Take a break to warm up in the unique chalet for food, drinks, ski shop, rentals and repairs.

Paddling: The meandering waterways of the La Crosse area are an absolute paradise for paddlers of every stripe. Take the family on a gentle canoe ride through wetlands, or enjoy moderate to strenuous kayaking along the Mississippi, Black, La Crosse Rivers. Canoe trails, launches, and outfitters abound in the area, making it a paddling destinations in the region. Check out this [resource](#) of canoe launches in the area to find the most convenient access point for you!



Enjoy the Outdoors—Wisconsin Rapids & Wausau

ATV/UTV: Open from dusk to dawn, Wood County ATV trails offer 10 miles of forest views of pine, aspen, and oak. These trails are free to the public and connect several towns which provide a great stopping point for a break.

Dells of the Eau Claire Offers 5 miles of hiking trails surrounding this rocky gorge and waterfalls where geological processes have resulted in an unusual tilting of bedrock. The park includes camping, picnicking, and beach area.

Granite Peak Ski Area: Located in Rib Mountain State Park. Features 74 runs and 6 terrain parks for both skiers and snowboarders. Boasts a vertical drop of 700 feet. Lessons are available for skiers and snowboarders of all ages.

Ice Age Trail: The Ice Age Trail is a thousand-mile footpath that travels through some of the state's most beautiful natural areas. More than 2 million people visit the trail each year. The Plover River Segment travels through Marathon County and provides excellent day or overnight hiking options.

Rib Mountain State Park: Settled atop a billion-year-old hill it is one of the oldest geological formations on earth. Day-use features areas for picnicking, hiking, and a tower which offers breathtaking views.

Snowmobiling: 700 miles of scenic Central Wisconsin trails are available in Marathon County alone. For a detailed map of trails click [here](#).

Wausau Whitewater Park: Awesome canoe and kayak park located in the east Wisconsin River. It is a world-class facility located right in Wausau which has hosted world events but also welcomes the newest paddlers to experience what an awesome and exhilarating feeling it is to get out on the water.

Wisconsin River: The state's longest river flows through the Wausau and Wisconsin Rapids area. The river comes with many opportunities for recreation including canoeing, kayaking, fishing, and tubing. Beautiful bike trails follow the river in the Wisconsin Rapids area.



Fun for the Family

Arnold's Strawberries: Offers pick-your-own or already-picked strawberries in Rudolf, WI. This farm has been operated by the same family for over 100 years.

Breakfast on the Farm: Each June, family farm hosts breakfast on the farm to promote June Dairy Days. The family can enjoy breakfast then tour the farm to learn about the life of a farmer.

Craft Time Studio (Tomah): Studio which offers craft classes, workshops, parties, and open studio hours. See website [here!](#)

JoJo's Jungle: Playground in the Wausau area designed to immerse children of any ability in an environment designed to mimic a tree canopy.

La Crosse Loggers: Northwoods League collegiate summer baseball league who plays at Copeland Park in La Crosse.

La Crosse Queen Paddlewheeler: Replica of the riverboats which used to ply the Mississippi in the early 1900s. One of the few paddlewheelers remaining in use today. Take a daytime or dinner cruise and enjoy the bluff scenes from the river.

Lotis Alpacas: Stop by and visit the farm alpacas. While visiting you can hand feed the alpacas too! Bring your camera and if interested stop by the store to see the variety of alpaca products.

Norskedalen Heritage & Nature Center: Take a step back in time as you view nature and heritage displays as you explore a 1890s restored pioneer log homestead. Explore more [here!](#)

Orchards, Pumpkin Patches, Fall Fun!: There are a variety of pumpkin patches, apple orchards, corn mazes, etc to enjoy the beautiful fall colors and times together as a family.

Rivoli Theater: Historic theater built in the 1920s. Offers pizza, beer, wine, and new release film showings at an affordable price.

Wisconsin Rapids Riverkings: Junior hockey team with the US Premier Hockey League who play at Wood County Rec Center.

Wisconsin Rapids Aqua Skiers Show Team: All-volunteer family oriented organization. Since 1959 the team has delighted tens of thousands of spectators with weekly free shows on Lake Wazeecha.



Learn & Explore

Children's Museum of La Crosse: Find a variety of hands-on experiences across three floors of fun. Exhibits include everything from fire trucks and treehouses to a dino maze and more! No matter the weather, this is a great option for families to have fun and make memories together.

Deke Slayton Space & Bicycle Museum: Commemorates Sparta astronaut Deke Slayton and the evolution of transportation through bicycles, aviation, and space exploration.

Genoa National Fish Hatchery: 13 species of fish are reared here and a number of mussel species. The center has a 1,000 gallon aquarium, wetland boardwalk, and outdoor classroom.

Kickapoo Valley Reserve: 8,000+ acre reserve in the heart of the Driftless Area. Includes visitor's center, ice caves, camping, snowshoeing, etc. Provides youth and educational programs throughout the year.

Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum: Diverse exhibitions from around the world. Includes audio tours, activity guides, and in-gallery videos expand on exhibition themes.

National Wildlife and Fish Refuge Visitors Center: Located on Brice Prairie in Onalaska, WI. The Friends of the Refuge run a Nature Store within the Visitor Center and offer classes and workshops on native wildlife and plants. They work to build awareness, enjoyment and support of the Refuge through engagement, environmental experiences, education research, and habitat enhancement.

Wausau Museum of Contemporary Art: A place where visitors can experience the work and ideas of artists. Integrates exhibitions, performances, and educational programs.

Wisconsin Cranberry Discovery Center: Take your time to learn about the history of Wisconsin's state fruit. When you're finished visit the Cranberry gift shop, country store, and vintage ice cream parlor for artisan-made cranberry ice cream.

Wisconsin Dairy State Cheese Company: Eat, shop, and tour all in one location. View the master cheesemakers from two observation areas and choose from over 200 different types of Wisconsin cheese.



Live Entertainment

Area Community Theater (ACT): For over 30 years, ACT has entertained theatre patrons from around the area. The largest and oldest community theater in Monroe County, over 200 local people are involved as cast, crew and volunteers. For more info and upcoming shows [click here!](#)

CenterStage Band & Show Choir: This group of dedicated individuals from central Wisconsin enjoy playing music, singing, dancing and performing for various events in the area.

Concerts on the Square: Held Wednesdays during summer, concerts are held at the beautiful 400 Block in downtown Wausau. Family and friends come together in this premier park for a night of music and fun.

County Fairs: Each county in the area hosts their own summer county fair. See local or well known musical acts, tour the barns, see the 4H projects, and enjoy some fair snacks.

La Crosse Center: Multi-purpose arena in downtown La Crosse which hosts annual festivals, concerts, sporting events, and more!

La Crosse Community Theater: A tradition since 1963. Produce six main stage shows and several youth shows each year. Shows range from comedies to dramas and musicals.

Pump House Regional Arts Center: Long history of being a fun place for the arts. Since 1977, has supplied the Coulee region with memorable performances. Events range from exhibits to concerts.

Sparta Concerts in the Park: Free Wednesday night concerts in the park at the Kiwanis Bandshell. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Donations support local nonprofits.

The Grand Theater: Located in downtown Wausau, the theater is home to it all—Broadway to ballet, comedy to cirque, classical,



Eat Local

Aldo's Farm & Table (Nekoosa): Offers contemporary, farm-to-table dining with outdoor, three-season, or indoor dining options.

BP Smokehouse BBQ (Tomah): American comfort food, specializing in smoked meats, in a rustic space.

Fayze's Restaurant & Bakery (La Crosse): In the heart of historic La Crosse, mouthwatering recipes and flavors to suite any style. On-premise bakery offers authentic European bread.

Ginny's Cupboard (Sparta): Retro dinner with espresso, soda fountain, sandwiches, and one of the best reubens in Wisconsin.

La Crosse Distillery: The City's first distillery! Tour the facility followed by a meal featuring the finest local ingredients.

Masa Sushi Grill and Bar (Wausau): Variety of sushi, tempura, udon, and hibachi options to satisfy everyone's craving.

Murray's on Main (Tomah): Offers a menu of steaks, seafood, burgers, Friday Night Fish Fry, and Saturday Prime Rib.

Red Eye Brewing Company (Wausau): Serves creative foods paired with hand-crafted beers in hip atmosphere.

Rudy's Drive-In (La Crosse and Sparta): Local drive-in which has been family owned since the 1930's.

Taphouse Twenty (Tomah): Family-friendly eatery with broad American menu, variety of cocktails, and relaxed setting.

The Charmant Hotel (La Crosse): 1898-built candy factory transformed into a luxury hotel, restaurant with outdoor seating and rooftop bar and lounge.

The Waterfront (La Crosse): favorite of locals and a travel destination. Tavern has live entertainment in historic, prohibition era, antique bar. Enjoy views of the Mississippi from the patio.

Wausau Mine Company: Unique dining atmosphere designed to mimic a "mine shaft". A place the whole family will enjoy.



Annual Events

Winter: Various natural areas and hiking trails offer candlelit snowshoe hikes.

February—Westby Snowflake Ski Jump: Draws athletes from around the nation to it's Olympic sized hill, one of the few in the United States. Includes live music, dancing, food and more!

March—Granite Peak Family Festivals: The ski resort holds several family festivals during weekends each with its own theme.

June—Tomah National Truck & Tractor Pull: Come enjoy the premier tractor pulling event on the NTPA Championship Circuit.

June—Sparta Butterfest: Fun for the entire family! Arts, crafts, free entertainment, poker run, carnival, run/walk, and parade

July— Country Boom: Country music and camping festival in West Salem. Listen to your favorite country music under the stars.

July— Driftless Music Festival: Enjoy music, food, and fun in Viroqua! This event is free and family friendly.

September—Warrens Cranfest: Always the last full weekend in September. Shopping, parades, and cranberry bog tours!

Oktoberfest: La Crosse hosts one of the largest Oktoberfest celebrations around. The week is full of celebrations, parades, food, and fun.

October—Apple Festivals: With numerous orchards in the areas, take your "pick" in which one to attend

December—La Crosse Rotary Lights: Over 3 million lights put on display on the Mississippi River banks in downtown La Crosse.

December—Sparta Kriskindlmarkt: Experience traditional European-style winter market. Taste authentic food and spirits while shopping from local vendors and artists.





We hope this guide provides an idea or two on how to enjoy this great area!

Welcome Home and On Wisconsin